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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/651,050	08/29/2003	Richard M. Powell	87276.1600	8987

7590 07/27/2006

BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP
Washington Square, Suite 1100
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

WILSON, GREGORY A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3749

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/651,050

Applicant(s)

POWELL ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory A. Wilson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8, 10-16, 18 and 19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Berry (4,377,737)**. **Berry** discloses a steam generator having a housing (2), a rigid tubular vessel (32) located within the housing, a heating element (42) located within the tubular vessel wherein water enters the tubular vessel for turning into steam which will ultimately be exhausted through steam outlet (52), furthermore the teaching of a thermostat or temperature control is discussed in column 2, lines 40 – column 3, line 4, wherein the temperature control is energized or de-energized anticipating claim 7.

Claims 5-8 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Kopel (6,078,729)**. **Kopel** discloses a steam generator including a housing (10) or test chamber (but essentially configured for humidifier control), a rigid tubular vessel (42) within the housing (SEE Figure 1), a heating element (40) within the tubular vessel, a water inlet (44) allowing water to enter the tubular vessel, a steam outlet (32) for steam output from the housing and the vessel, a thermostat is taught by the combination of

sensor (68) in conjunction with microprocessor (120) and can inherently turn on and off the heating elements based on the parameters set by the user.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Kopel (6,078,729)** in view of Examiner's statement of Official Notice. Kopel discloses the applicants primary inventive concept as stated above but does not particularly discuss mounting of the structure, in which the limitation reads on being mounted to the floor. It would have been obvious to provides nuts and bolts or any type of mounting structure for mounting the steam generator to the floor, wall, or another structure per Kopel since the examiner takes Official Notice that mounting the steam generator, which has nothing to do with the functioning of the steam generator, would have been within the level of ordinary skill in the art to limit vibration/movement of the steam generator.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10-13 and 15, 16, 18, and 19 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: **The prior art does not disclose the applicants disclosed steam generator**

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in combination with an overflow pipe configured to drain water from the tubular vessel within the housing nor an externally located vessel in fluid communication with the steam chamber wherein both the chamber and the vessel maintain the same liquid level.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory A. Wilson whose telephone number is (571)272-4882. The examiner can normally be reached on 7 am - 4:30 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ehud Gartenberg can be reached on (571) 272-4828. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

GREGORY WILSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Gregory A. Wilson

Gaw

July 19, 2006